Involvement of Air India Crew in Smuggling

171. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) in how many cases the Air India crew was found involved in smuggling activities during 1987, indicating comparative figures for 1986;

(b) what is the nature of their smuggling activities and what is the quantity (with value) of the contraband goods seized from each of the Air India crew member involved in smuggling during 1987 as compared to the contraband goods recovered in 1986; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Government against each of the AI crew members involved in such activities and what measures have been taken to ensure cent per cent check on tehir smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Air India had one case each of smuggling activities by their crew during the years 1986 and 1987.

(b) Details of the contraband goods seized from the crew members are given below:

Year	Contraband Kgs.	Value lakhs Rs.
1986	4.3	17.21
1987	8.63	28.65

(c) Both the crew members were immediately placed under suspension and departmental action initiated against them. The service regulations provide for taking necessary action against staff involved in smuggling activities and employees are aware of the same by means of staff notices. Instructions were reiterated to the staff of severe disciplinary action if they are found to be involved in such smuggling activities.

Inquiry into Ajmer-Delhi passenger train fire

172. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry has been made into the incident of death of a large number of persons, following devastating fire in a coach of the Ajmer-Delhi fast passenger train on 29th November, 1987; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to preliminary findings of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle, who conducted statutory inquiry into this accident, the fire in the coach was caused due to carriage of inflamable substance, most probably petrol, by persons unknown who were travelling in the coach. The final report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety is awaited.